

The CIA Foiled Again

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Allen Dulles Once Asked Congress to Lift Secrecy on Some Funds, but Failed

CPYRGHT

By Rowland Evans and Robert Novak

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IN THE LATE 1950s, the then CIA director, Allen W. Dulles, journeyed to Capitol Hill to try and persuade four Congressmen that certain Central Intelligence Agency funds should be lifted out of the secret category and put into the State Department's regular budget.

Dulles ran into a stone wall in the form of Rep. John Rooney, the tight-fisted Brooklyn Democrat and powerful chairman of the State Department Appropriations Subcommittee. Flanking Rooney were other congressional money powers, including Rep. Frank Bow of Ohio, the senior Republican on the House Appropriations Committee.

Rooney, Bow and company refused to switch the secret funds into the open. Proud of their success in chipping away at President Eisenhower's annual request for funds to run the State Department, they did not want to be put in a position where that budget would suddenly be swollen by millions of dollars.

In other words, the transfer would make economy-minded Congressmen look bad.

There was another obstacle blocking Dulles. The appropriations subcommittee that handled the top-secret, multi-billion dollar CIA account was also loath to make the transfer. The subcommittee wanted all CIA-connected money kept in one account.

The matter at issue was not clandestine funding of such organizations as the National Students Association. It was the financing of what was then known as the National Intelligence Surveys, a fairly routine operation that cost several million dollars a year.

The surveys were up-to-date reports on every country in the world, kept current for quick inspection in the event of a sudden, unexpected political crisis.

Even if the Government had tried to switch the financing of the student association from dummy foundations and CIA fronts into public appropriations, such as the State Department budget, the result on Capitol Hill would have been that Conservatives would have

contested every nickel on grounds that the money was going to "left-wing" outfits.

Footnote: The investigation ordered by President Johnson into the extent of CIA's sub rosa financial support for allegedly private organizations is going much slower than planned.

Headed by the industrious Under Secretary of State, Nicholas Katzenbach, the probe was originally due on the President's desk by mid-March. Early April is the new target date. Exploring the endless catacombs of CIA's clandestine investments is taking more time than originally thought.

LBJ and RFK

THE SUDDEN spate of private speculation in the White House—that Sen. Robert F. Kennedy is really toying with the idea of running for President in 1968 is a direct result of a remark made in jest to President Johnson by one of his closest aides.

Several days before Kennedy made his speech calling for another bombing pause, the President turned to this aide and asked in an exasperated manner what it was that Kennedy was really up to.

The reply of the aide, which he intended the President to take as a joke, was that obviously Kennedy wanted to run for President in 1968.

Mr. Johnson took the remark in deadly seriousness. Within three days, he solemnly informed other White House aides, and intimates outside the White House, on five separate occasions that he knew Kennedy was in the last stages of making up his mind to run for President next year.

No amount of rational analysis could sway Mr. Johnson despite the fact that a Kennedy race for the nomination against the President would tear the heart out of the Democratic Party, a political fact well understood by Kennedy, and perhaps destroy both men.

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